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TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLITICAL:

External - 1. Berlin/Germany.
2. Common Market and CEMA.
3. Soviets Accept Sinhanouk Conference Proposal.
4. Laos.
5. Algeria.
6. Disarmament and Nuclear Testing.
7. Visit of U Thant.
8. Cuba.

Internal - 9. Leadership.
10. More Good News About Rostov Oblast.
11. Stalin Accused of Concealing "Mistakes" of Collectivization.
12. Rehabilitation of K. Ya. Bauman.
13. The Leisured Parasites of Krasnoyarsk.
14. New Secretary of Azerbaidzhan.

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POLITICAL - EXTERNAL

1. Berlin/Germany.

Developments surrounding the attacks by West Berliners against Soviet buses transporting Soviet War Memorial guards evoked an outburst of critical Soviet press reports and a Soviet note on August 24 holding the US responsible for such incidents. The note warned that the Soviets would take whatever actions were necessary to protect their units in the event the US failed to carry out its responsibilities.

Identical tripartite Western notes protesting the killing of Peter FECHTER and calling for four-power consultations on the situation in Berlin were delivered to the Ministry on August 24.

Soviet commentaries on the abolition of the Soviet Commandant's office and the appointment of GDR General POPPE reiterated the standard Soviet claim that a peace treaty and normalization of West Berlin on that basis are urgent and essential. In the only direct commentary on practical ramifications of the Commandant move, Komsomolskaya Pravda asserted that now that the Commandant functions have been turned over to the GDR the Western powers will have to deal directly with the GDR.

On August 27 the Embassy delivered the US response to the Soviet note of August 24, reiterating the necessity for four-power discussions on conditions in Berlin.

In the first press reference to ULBRICHT's activities since his stopover in Kiev en route to the Black Sea, the Soviet press on August 29 prominently reported a meeting between Ulbricht and KHRUSHCHEV at which "a series of international questions" were discussed. The decision to publish this report at this time seems to suggest that Ulbricht is about to return to East Berlin. It is interesting that Ulbricht, unlike Rumanian leader GHEORGHIU-DEJ, was apparently not invited to attend the celebration in Moscow of the achievements of NIKOLAYEV and POPOVICH. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Common Market and CEMA

During the past week, the Soviets publicized two significant documents which underscored the hostility with which they view the Common Market and the urgency which they now attach to building up their counterpart, the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (CEMA). The Theses "On Imperialist Integration in Western Europe," published in Pravda on August 26, concentrated on an ideological analysis of the EEC and set forth action recommendations designed to combat the political and economic threat emanating from this West European organization.

The other document was Khrushchev's article entitled "Vital Questions of the Development of the World Socialist System," which was first published in Problems of Peace and Socialism and reprinted in the current issue of Kommunist. A notable feature of Khrushchev's article was the sharp polemic against "people who call themselves Marxists" (i.e., the Chinese Communists) whom he accused of

GPO: 1961 O - 612212 (52)

"scholasticism." He rejected charges that the Soviets were guilty of "economism," an ideological term applied to those who place the economic struggle against imperialism above the political struggle. Even more striking was Khrushchev's division of the socialist camp into CEMA members, on the one hand, whose industrial development is sufficiently advanced to permit them to enter into a system of international division of labor and unnamed others with whom CEMA members are developing broad economic ties, facilitating the maturing of conditions for their still broader economic cooperation. The heart of Khrushchev's article was a call for the implementation of an effective international division of labor within CEMA, a move which would in his eyes point up the superiority of the socialist system and present CEMA as a viable counterpart to the Common Market. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Soviets Accept Sinhanouk Conference Proposal

Following more than a week's silence, the Soviet press on August 28 published SINHANOUK's August 20 letter to Khrushchev proposing a Geneva-type conference on Cambodia and Khrushchev's acceptance. No editorial comment has appeared to date. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. Laos

Developments in Laos continue to be virtually ignored by the Soviet press. In the past week only brief reports have appeared which indicated that agreement was achieved on ICC checkpoints and the first withdrawal of foreign troops has begun. Sarcastic remarks about the size of the Philippine contingent appeared in TASS reports from Vientiane, and Sovetskaya Rossiya August 26, in a rare reference to Viet Minh presence in Laos, asserted PHOUMI was attempting to delay the withdrawal of Philippine troops until "DRV technical specialists" begin to depart. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Algeria

A recent article by an Izvestiya commentator giving a positive evaluation of Algerian leader BEN BELLA indicates that the Soviets are moving into a more active phase in commenting on personalities and events in Algeria. The relatively favorable evaluation of Ben Bella emerged from the commentator's indirect praise of Ben Bella's alleged antipathy toward neocolonialism, his intention to pursue a policy of Algerian socialism, and his emphasis on the need to carry out an agrarian reform program. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Disarmament and Nuclear Testing

The Soviet press reaction to the two draft treaties on nuclear testing tabled by the US and the UK followed closely the line set forth by KUZNETSOV at Geneva. Articles claimed that the US-UK draft providing for a ban on nuclear weapons tests in all environments still provided for obligatory on-site inspection, a demand which the Soviets have persistently rejected on grounds that it would merely provide espionage opportunities for the Western powers. With respect to the draft looking toward the banning of tests in the atmosphere, under water and in space, the Soviets alleged that this was designed to legalize underground tests and would

☆GPO: 1961 O - 612212(52)

in effect mean that the nuclear arms race would be continued. To counteract the impact which may have been made by the new Western initiative, the Soviets once more asserted that they were prepared to accept the neutral eight-nation memorandum, which provided for invitational on-site inspections, as the basis for a comprehensive agreement. As an alternative, the Soviets indicated that they were also prepared to undertake a moratorium on all testing as of a definite date, with the beginning of 1963 being mentioned as a possibility. Such a moratorium would, of course, make no provision for inspection procedures acceptable to the US. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

7. Visit of U Thant

Acting UN Secretary General U THANT visited the Soviet Union from August 25 through August 30. He was accorded very correct treatment, being received by Khrushchev, BREZHNEV, and GROMYKO during the course of his visit. The presumption was that this type of treatment, at the minimum, indicated that the Soviets were at least not unfavorably disposed toward him at the moment. Before departing, he gave a press conference at which he noted that Khrushchev had no plans at present to attend the forthcoming session of the UN although such a visit was not ruled out in the future. Although U Thant indicated that a broad range of international questions were discussed, he gave no real indication of the substance of the discussions. Western reporters present at the press conference came away with the feeling that the Soviets had merely reiterated their positions on numerous outstanding international issues. According to U Thant, his candidature for a full term as Secretary General of the UN was not discussed with the Soviet leaders. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

8. Cuba

A predictable outbreak of press criticisms of the US for its alleged responsibility in the shelling of Havana harbor developed in the Soviet press beginning August 27. The articles presented the incident as one of a series of US provocations against Cuba, which have involved the Guantanamo base and alleged violations of Cuban territorial waters and air space. Pravda also linked the Havana incident with General TAYLOR's plans to visit US Caribbean military installations. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

POLITICAL - INTERNAL

9. Leadership

It was a quiet week on the domestic-political front, as befitted a period when Khrushchev and other members of the Party Presidium were still on vacation.

Attention centered briefly on Denis Nikanorovich LYSENKO, the father of the [illegible] petrel of Soviet genetics, T. D. Lysenko. D. N., who is payrolled as a field brigadier at his son's experimental station, was given the Order of the Red Banner of Labor on his ninetieth birthday. He was lauded in Pravda as "the forefather of a dynasty of scholars" (a grandson, Oleg Trofimovich, holds a degree in agricultural science) and pictured there slyly peering at the correspondent who interviewed him.

*GPO: 1961 O - 612212(52)

Also in the limelight was a sixty-nine-year-old Ukrainian link-leader, N. G. ZAGLADA, whose article exhorting readers to "Respect the Honor of the Grain-Grower!" was spread far and wide through the Soviet press in one of those sporadic campaigns modelled on that built around STAKHANOV in the '30's.

While Slavic folksiness was rife, the regime's business went forward at its own measured pace.

Khrushchev received Walter Ulbricht and U Thant in separate seances on August 28 at Yalta, and "Che" GUEVARA and Emilio ARAGONES on the 30th. U Thant had been received on August 27 in Moscow by Brezhnev and saw CPSU Presidium candidate-member V. V. SHCHERBITSKY in Kiev on August 29.

Brezhnev also received a delegation of Togo parliamentarians on August 29. Mikoyan, who had held a discussion with a group of Danish industrialists on August 24 in the Kremlin, shortly thereafter departed on his vacation, leaving KOSYGIN to shoulder the protocol burden. Kosygin attended an August 25 reception given by Tsentrosoyuz, the Soviet consumer-cooperative organization, for foreign delegations that had attended its VI Congress; on August 27, met Guevara and Aragones at the airport and attended a luncheon and a reception honoring U Thant, and, on August 30, received the CPR Vice Minister of Foreign Trade, LI Tsian.

The 40th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet "satirical" journal Krokodil was suitably commemorated and Pravda noted the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Stalinist apparatchik Karl Yanovich BAUMAN, who "perished in October 1937,... a victim of the lawlessness and arbitrary rule during the period of the cult of personality of STALIN" (see below). (UNCLASSIFIED)

10. More Good News About Rostov Oblast

New Rostov Oblast CP First Secretary V. V. SKRYABIN continues to have a favorable press.

Last week (WEEKA No. 34), the news from Rostov was that the harvest was so well organized that 2,500 tractors had been freed for other work. This week, Pravda (August 29) reported that the workers of the Rostsel'mash agricultural machinery plant in Rostov were also overfulfilling their norms, having reached the halfway point toward producing 2,300 extra grain combines. Unfortunately, their efforts are hampered by the piling up of motorless combines as a result of delayed engine deliveries from the "Hammer and Sickle" factory in Kharkov.

Pravda, in an editorial on August 29, again paid tribute to the performance of Rostov Oblast in the delivery of 170,000 poods of grain, and, on August 27, published a photograph of the grape harvest there.

COMMENT: The continuing and rather exceptional favor being shown Rostov Oblast in the central press is apparently motivated by the regime's desire to counteract rumors of unrest there, originating in the Novocherkassk riot of June 1. (UNCLASSIFIED)

☆GPO: 1961 O - 612212(52)

11. Stalin Accused of Concealing "Mistakes" of Collectivization

A. SKABA, a Secretary of the Ukrainian CP-CC, writing in Kommunist (No. 12, August), takes the historian, I. I. SLINKO, to task for his failure to unmask "crude distortions of the Leninist line committed by Stalin in the building of collective agriculture," in a book published by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in 1961. An article in Voprosy istorii KPSS (No. 4, 1962) sets a more specific pattern, finding that "it is impossible not to condemn the attempt of I. V. Stalin to transfer all the blame for distortions to local workers in his articles 'Dizzy with Success' and 'An Answer to the Comrade Kolkhozniks', as well as in his speech at the February-March (1937) Plenum . . ." (Embassy's A-312, August 31).

COMMENT: Although probably intended primarily for its domestic effect, especially in the Ukraine, the new line on Stalin's "errors" during the collectivization period brings the Soviet interpretation of the personality cult closer to that of GOMULKA, who, at the November 21-22 Plenum of the Polish Workers' Party CC, dated its origin from the period of forced collectivization in the USSR. (UNCLASSIFIED)

12. Rehabilitation of K. Ya. Bauman

Pravda and Izvestiya both observed the 70th anniversary of the birth of K. Ya. Bauman, on August 29. Articles in these newspapers, as well as a more detailed essay in Kommunist Sovetskoy Latvii (No. 8, August 1962), describe Bauman as the son of a Latvian agricultural worker who became a Party member at the age of fifteen, in 1907, went on to become a Central Committee member of the Party, headed the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Committee from 1931 to 1934, and was later made the chief of the Central Committee Section for Science. According to the birthday articles, he became a purge victim in October 1937.

The Embassy has no record of a previous rehabilitation of Bauman. His posthumous restoration to grace is the latest of a series of commemorations of non-Russian purge victims, all of whose records on the nationality question have been innocent of any separatist taint. Bauman, in fact, was a faithful executor of Stalin's nationalities policy.

(AVTORKHANOV's "Stalin and the Soviet Communist Party" describes Bauman as a devoted follower of Stalin, who, in the early 1930's, shared responsibility for operating the Central Committee apparat with Stalin's personal secretary, POSKREBYSHEV. In the summer of 1937, according to the same source, he presided over a special meeting of representatives of Muslim republics and oblasts at which the decision was formally made to abandon the Roman alphabet in favor of the Cyrillic.) (UNCLASSIFIED)

13. The Leisured Parasites of Krasnoyarsk

A correspondent of Komsomolskaya Pravda (August 29) complains that "parasitic elements" exiled to Krasnoyarsk Kray under the decree of May 1, 1961, are piling up indigestibly there. . . Lyudmila, a former girl idler of Moscow, found sitting on a village bench in the Kray, is quoted as saying that she tried working for four months on a local collective farm as a milkmaid, but "there was no place

*GPO: 1961 O - 612712(52)

there to live." Another exile, SAVENKOV, hid out in stokeholes after his arrival, continued to lead a shady life, and, according to a fellow resident, "hasn't been seen since sometime last spring."

Not only are many of the exiles unemployed--a local state-farm director told the correspondent that he would not take a single "parasite"--but they prefer it this way, according to the article, because they can continue their former indolent mode of life while subsisting on remittances from friends and relatives at home.

The article also deals with the problems of finding housing and employment for the new arrivals and dispersing them so that they will not form gangs. "Groups are formed among the exiles," it admits, "that not only do not want to work but hinder others." Komsomolskaya Pravda's correspondent sternly proposes that new arrivals henceforth be handed a shovel or sent to a farm; if they refuse to work, they should be put forthwith in jail. (UNCLASSIFIED)

14. New Secretary of Azerbaidzhan

Pravda on August 31 reported the conclusion of a two-day plenum of the Azerbaidzhan CP-CC, at which First Secretary V. Yu. AKHUNDOV and other speakers discussed ideological work and Khasay Gasanogly VEZIROV was elected a Secretary of the Central Committee. He will presumably fill the vacancy left by the death, on July 30, of N. M. GADZHIYEV. Vezirov was a full member of the Central Committee of the Azerbaidzhan CP from 1954 to 1961. In 1961, he sank to the rank of candidate-member. He has been identified as editor of the Azerbaidzhan-language newspaper Kommunist (1954-1959) and as a member of the Presidium of the Azerbaidzhanian Union of Journalists (1959). (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:

Boris H. Klosson

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GPO: 1961 O - 612712 (52)